
Name of Organization: Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Inc.

Type of Organization: Other

Contact Information: Dr. Daniel Palm

658 West Onondaga Street

Syracuse NY 13204

Phone: (315) 475 - 1170 **Extension:**

Fax: (315) 475 - 6719

E-Mail: Dan.Palm@aslf.org

Project Title: Shoreline Habitat Restoration-Lake Ontario

Project Category: Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 1

Total Funding Requested (\$): 89,571 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

Abstract:

Extensive loss of habitat, near shore and on uplands bordering Lake Ontario, has occurred with its subsequent negative impacts on flora and fauna. As an example, the ability of the area to support migratory, nesting and wintering birds has been severely compromised. Through this project efforts will be undertaken to identify methods that can be used by general landowners to restore/improve these habitats. Habitats will be inventoried and classified with respect to the degree of degradation for specific flora and fauna species. Specific restoration techniques will be identified for each class of habitat degradation. Three demonstration restoration projects reflective of differing classes of degraded habitat will be undertaken. These will be monitored for effectiveness both during and subsequent to the project period. Extensive efforts will be taken to develop partnerships with general landowners to effect restoration projects over the 50 miles of shoreline in Cayuga and Oswego counties. Central to achieving this will be the development and distribution of information on restoration techniques, conducting seminars, holding of "how to" field demonstrations, and identifying vegetative plants recommended for restoration.

This project's contributing partners will be Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego County Environmental Management Council, Sterling Education Center, The Nature Conservancy and Atlantic States Legal Foundation. The non-contributing partners will be demonstration site landowners, general landowners, students and targeted interest groups.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ohio

Lakes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
--	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Oswego River, NY

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Eastern Lake Ontario

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Past activities by man and nature have destroyed or impaired near shore aquatic and upland habitats along Lake Ontario to varying degrees. This is evidenced by recent observations of Samuel Sage, Chief Scientist at Atlantic States Legal Foundation and author of "Habitat and Wildlife Inventory: Guide to Coastal Zone Lands", 1976. In addition, the Nature Conservancy has documented the impacts of the degradation and loss of habitat on neotropical migratory land birds in its publication entitled "Migrant Songbirds Along Lake Ontario's Shore", 1975. Lake Ontario Lake-wide Management Plan notes that there is a lake-wide beneficial use impairment of loss of fish and wildlife habitat. These impairments are in part due to the physical loss, modification and destruction of habitat. Given the historic productivity and significance of these habitats and their subsequent importance to flora and fauna, efforts to restore/improve these habitats will yield significant benefits not only for migratory songbirds but also to other components of the Lake Ontario ecosystem. Low cost and effective restoration techniques are available. For example, mowing of vegetation and planting of shrubs. Implementation of these techniques through education, demonstration and technical assistance to landowners would result in long term habitat improvement. Currently certain aspects of this issue are being examined through a GLNPO funded project being conducted by Terry Donovan, SUNY-CESF.

Coordination will occur so that any applicable findings from that study can be incorporated into this proposed project.

Proposed Work Outcome:

The following work program is proposed:

1. Identify degraded habitat types that can be restored/improved through landowner action along the 50 miles of Lake Ontario in Oswego and Cayuga counties.
 - a. Aerial photo interpretation and field verification identify degraded habitats.
 - b. Classify these degraded habitats by the degree of degradation present. For example: No value, limited value or full value as nesting site or travel corridor.
 - c. Identify specific habitat restoration/improvement techniques required to eliminate the degradations or to make habitat improvements. For example, mowing, planting food source vegetation etc.
2. Implement restoration/improvement techniques required to eliminate/reduce the degradation to the habitat on three demonstration properties.
 - a. Select three demonstration sites that have differing habitat degradation(s) and owners that are willing to cooperate in a

demonstration program. Potential sites include ALCAN, PASNY, private landowners, and Onondaga Audubon Society properties. Specific sites cannot be selected until the work in 1 above is completed.

- b. In a joint effort with three demonstration site landowners, implement restoration/improvement techniques applicable to the type of degradation present on the specific properties.
- c. Monitor demonstration sites for effectiveness of techniques applied during the grant period and establish a long term monitoring plan conducted by local birding organizations.

3. Conduct educational programs for private landowners and other targeted groups in Cayuga and Oswego counties

- a. Develop and distribute written information regarding habitat restoration techniques
[i.e. "how to do" material such as a tutorial for the property owner].
- b. Conduct habitat restoration seminars for general landowners as well as hands on field demonstrations in conjunction with those participating in the program.
- c. Create a web page on the existing Atlantic States Legal Foundation website upon which all educational material is placed.
- d. Conduct education efforts at public schools within the project area.

4. Implement restoration activities

- a. Provide direct technical assistance to general landowners regarding techniques applicable to their property based upon the inventory phase as well as guidance on how to implement the selected technique(s). As we review the results of the demonstration projects, we will incorporate the finding in to the continuing assistance program.
- b. Provide appropriate vegetative plant material for habitat restoration.
- c. Monitor sites where implementation took place through the duration of the grant and establish a long term monitoring plan in cooperation with local birding organizations.

5. Assessment Report

- a. Prepare final report detailing findings of project including:
 - 1). habitat impairments identified
 - 2). restoration techniques recommended
 - 3). education program
 - 4). participation by landowners
 - 5). evaluation of restoration measures implemented.

Project Milestones:**Dates:**

Project Start	09/2000
Shoreline analysis/habitat classificatio	02/2001
Implement demonstration sites	05/2001
Conduct education programs	09/2001
Provide technical support to landowners	06/2002
Monitor demonstration sites	07/2002
Project report	08/2002
Project End	08/2002

☐ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

N/A

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The education component of the project would focus on two groups - the general landowner and interest groups. The focus for the general landowner would be on habitat restoration including the need, the benefits and the techniques. This would be oriented toward a "how to proceed" for land owners-commercial/industrial, public, private, and nonprofit. This would be accomplished through the provision of written material, conduct of seminars/demonstrations, provision of on site technical assistance and the placement of information on a web page. In addition to landowners, the education effort will focus on interest groups such as public school students and other users of the project area such as recreationists. How to minimize impacts on habitats when participating in recreation activities along the shoreline would be the focus of the education effort for the latter groups. The education program would also provide general habitat information to select classes in the public schools within the project area.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	45,400	8,610
Fringe:	9,988	1,894
Travel:	1,000	1,500
Equipment:	4,000	0
Supplies:	5,000	0
Contracts:	6,000	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	6,500	0
Total Direct Costs:	77,888	12,004
Indirect Costs:	11,683	1,801
Total:	89,571	13,805
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

The partners listed below will contribute the amounts shown:

Rice Creek Field Station - \$2504

Personnel service including fringe to assist in shoreline analysis and classification

Sterling Nature Center - \$2200

Personnel service including fringe to assist in developing and delivering education program

Oswego County Environmental Management Council - \$5000

Provide access to air photos and shoreline map files

Personnel service including fringe to assist in shoreline analysis and classification

Personnel service including fringe to assist in conducting education programs and demonstration areas

The Nature Conservancy - \$800

Personnel service including fringe to assist in identifying restoration techniques

Atlantic States Legal Foundation - \$3301

Contribute \$1801 of project indirect costs

Contribute \$1500 toward travel costs

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

Contributing partners for this project include representatives from:

The biological research community - Andrew Nelson, Director, Rice Creek Field Station

The environmental education community - John Weeks, Director, Sterling Nature Center

County government - Karen Noyes, Senior Planner, Oswego County Environmental Management Council

Environmental non profit sector - Gerald Smith, Land Steward, The Nature Conservancy and Samuel Sage, Chief Scientist, Atlantic States Legal Foundation, Inc.

Non-contributing partners for this project include:

Demonstration site property owners

General property owners who participate

Interests groups and students

Local birding groups